

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Withdrawn) A hollow frame member adapted to be friction stir welded according to claim 16, wherein:

at an outer face side of said second plate, a raised portion which projects to an outer side from an outer face of said second plate is provided along to said one end side, and

said raised portion is a portion in which by inserting a rotary tool a friction stir welding is carried out.

3. (Withdrawn) A hollow frame member adapted to be friction stir welded according to claim 16, wherein:

at said end side of said second plate, a raised portion which projects to an outer side from an outer face of said second plate is provided, and

said raised portion is a portion in which by inserting a rotary tool a friction stir welding is carried out.

4. (Withdrawn) A hollow frame member adapted to be friction stir welded according to claim 16, wherein:

at an outer side of said end side of said second plate, a raised portion is provided, and

said raised portion is opened directed toward said outer side in a thickness direction of said hollow frame member and toward said end side of said second plate.

5. (Withdrawn) A hollow frame member adapted to be friction stir welded according to claim 4, wherein said raised portion is positioned at a connection portion of said third plate and one end of said second plate.

6. (Withdrawn) A hollow frame member adapted to be friction stir welded according to claim 4, wherein:

said third plate is substantially orthogonal to said second plate,  
a corner portion of a recessed portion of the second plate is positioned in a range of an extension line in a thickness of said third plate, and  
said raised portion is a portion in which by inserting a rotary tool a friction stir welding can be carried out.

7. (Withdrawn) A hollow frame member adapted to be friction stir welded according to claim 6, wherein said corner portion is positioned at a center in a thickness of said third plate.

8. (Withdrawn) A hollow frame member adapted to be friction stir welded according to claim 6, wherein said corner portion is positioned at another end side of said hollow frame member from a center in a thickness of said third plate.

9. (Withdrawn) A hollow frame member adapted to be friction stir welded according to claim 6, wherein:

said raised portion is connected to said recessed portion and projects to an outer side from an outer face of said second plate, and

said raised portion is a portion in which by inserting a rotary tool a friction stir welding is carried out.

10. (Withdrawn) A hollow frame member adapted to be friction stir welded according to claim 4, wherein:

at said one end of said first plate, a raised portion which projects toward a side of said second plate is provided along to said one end, and

said raised portion is a portion in which by inserting a rotary tool a friction stir welding can be carried out.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Withdrawn) A hollow frame member adapted to be friction stir welded according to claim 19, wherein:

a raised portion, which is connected to said recessed portion and projects to an outer side from an outer face of said second plate, is provided at an outer side of said second plate,

at said one end of said first plate, a second raised portion, which projects toward said second plate, is provided, and

said raised portion and said second raised portion are portions in which by inserting a rotary tool a friction stir welding is carried out.

13 – 15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) A hollow frame member adapted to be friction stir welded, comprising:

said hollow frame member arranged against another hollow frame member to be subjected to a friction stir welding,

said hollow frame member comprising a first plate, a second plate substantially in parallel to said first plate, and ~~a third plate having plural ribs and for~~ connecting said first plate and said second plate, whereinsaid hollow frame member further comprising

~~an outermost rib of said a third plate that connects a midway portion of said first plate of said hollow frame member and an end portion of said second plate of said hollow frame member, wherein~~

an end portion of said first plate of said hollow frame member projects beyond said end portion of said second plate of said hollow frame member, and

said end portion of said first plate is a portion in which by inserting a rotary tool from an upper portion of said second plate of said hollow frame member of said hollow frame member to said end portion of said first plate of said hollow frame member, the friction stir welding is carried out at an abutted portion which is formed between said end portion of said first plate of said hollow frame member and an end portion of a plate of said another hollow frame member using said rotary tool.

17. (Currently Amended) A hollow frame member adapted to be friction stir welded according to claim 16, wherein said outermost rib third plate of said

hollow frame member is substantially perpendicular to said first plate of said hollow frame member and said second platesplate of said hollow frame member.

18. (Currently Amended) A hollow frame member adapted to be friction stir welded according to claim 16, wherein said another hollow frame member comprises a first plate, a second plate substantially in parallel to said first plate, and ~~a third plate plural ribs for~~ connecting said first plate and said second plate, with an end portion of ~~the said~~ first plate of ~~the said~~ another hollow frame member projecting beyond an end portion of ~~the said~~ second plate of ~~the said~~ another hollow frame member, and with ~~the said~~ first plate of ~~the said~~ hollow frame member adapted to be arranged against ~~the said~~ first plate of ~~the said~~ another hollow frame member, and the friction stir welding ~~being is~~ carried out at an abutted portion which is formed between said end portion of said first plate of said hollow frame member and said end portion of said first plate of said another hollow frame member using said rotary tool.

19. (Currently Amended) A hollow frame member adapted to be friction stir welded according to claim 16, wherein ~~an outermost rib at each end of said a~~ third plate of said another hollow frame member connects a midway portion of said a first plate of said another hollow frame member and an end portion of said a second plate of said another hollow frame member, and an said end portion of said first plate projecting of said another hollow frame member projects beyond said end portion of said second plate at each end of the said another hollow frame member.

20. (Currently Amended) A hollow frame member adapted to be friction stir welded, comprising:

said hollow frame member arranged against another hollow frame member to be subjected to a friction stir welding,

said hollow frame member comprising a first plate, a second plate substantially in parallel to said first plate, and ~~a third plate having plural ribs and for~~ connecting said first plate and said second plate, whereinsaid hollow frame member further comprising

~~an outermost rib of said a third plate that connects a midway portion of said first plate of said hollow frame member and an end portion of said second plate of said hollow frame member,~~

an end portion of said first plate of said hollow frame member projects beyond said end portion of said second plate of said hollow frame member,

at a connection portion of said end portion of said second plate of said hollow frame member and said outermost rib of said third plate of said hollow frame member, a rebate shape recessed portion is provided along to said connection portion,

said rebate shape recessed portion of said hollow frame member opens directed toward a plate thickness direction of said second plate of said hollow frame member,

a corner portion from said second plate of said hollow frame member to said rebate shape recessed portion of said hollow frame member is positioned at a range in a thickness of said outermost rib of said third plate of said hollow frame member,

said rebate shape recessed portion of said hollow frame member is a portion in which by inserting a rotary tool from an upper portion of said second plate of said

hollow frame member, the friction stir welding is carried out between at said end portion of said second plate of said hollow frame member and said another hollow frame member using said rotary tool, and

    said end portion of said first plate of said hollow frame member is a portion in which by inserting said rotary tool from said upper portion of said second plate of said hollow frame member to said end portion of said first plate of said hollow frame member, the friction stir welding is carried out at an abutted portion which is formed between said end portion of said first plate of said hollow frame member and an end portion of a first plate of said another hollow frame member using said rotary tool.

21. (Currently Amended) A hollow frame member adapted to be friction stir welded according to claim 20, wherein said outermost rib third plate of said hollow frame member is substantially perpendicular to said first plate of said hollow frame member and said second plates plate of said hollow frame member.

22. (Currently Amended) A hollow frame member adapted to be friction stir welded according to claim 20, wherein said rebate shape recessed portion of said hollow frame member is a portion on which a fourth joint plate is provided, said fourth joint plate is a separate member from said hollow frame member and said another hollow frame member, and said fourth joint plate is supported between said rebate shape recessed portion of said hollow frame member and an end portion of a second plate of said another hollow frame member.

23. (Currently Amended) A hollow frame member adapted to be welded, comprising:

said hollow frame member arranged against another hollow frame member to be subjected to a welding,

said hollow frame member comprising a first plate, a second plate substantially in parallel to said first plate, and ~~a third plate having plural ribs and for~~ connecting said first plate and said second plate, wherein said hollow frame member further comprising

an outermost rib of said a third plate of said hollow frame member that connects a midway portion of said first plate of said hollow frame member and an end portion of said second plate of said hollow frame member,

an end portion of said first plate of said hollow frame member projects beyond said end portion of said second plate of said hollow frame member, and

said end portion of said first plate of said hollow frame member is a portion in which by inserting a welding tool from an upper portion of said second plate of said hollow frame member to said end portion of said first plate of said hollow frame member, the welding is carried out at an abutted portion which is formed between said end portion of said first plate of said hollow frame member and an end portion of a first plate of said another hollow frame member using said welding tool.

24. (Currently Amended) A hollow frame member adapted to be welded according to claim 23, wherein said outermost rib third plate of said hollow frame member is substantially perpendicular to said first plate of said hollow frame member and said second plates plate of said hollow frame member.

25. (Currently Amended) A hollow frame member adapted to be welded according to claim 23, wherein:

a rebate shape recessed portion of said hollow frame member is provided along to said end of said second plate of said hollow frame member, and said rebate shape recessed portion of said hollow frame member opens directed toward a side of an outer face in a plate thickness direction of said second plate of said hollow frame member.

26. (Currently Amended) A hollow frame member adapted to be welded according to claim 25, wherein said rebate shape recessed portion of said hollow frame member is a connection portion which is formed between said outermost rib of said third plate of said hollow frame member and said end portion of said second plate of said hollow frame member.

27. (Currently Amended) A hollow frame member adapted to be friction stir-welded according to claim 25, wherein said rebate shape recessed portion of said hollow frame member is a portion on which a fourth joint plate is provided, said fourth joint plate is a separate member from said hollow frame member and said another hollow frame member, and said fourth joint plate is supported between said rebate shape recessed portion of said hollow frame member and an end portion of a second plate of said another hollow frame member.